

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REGARDING THE WRITINGS OF
THE FORMER REPRESENTATIVE
RON DELLUMS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 8, 2000

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to present to the house a review by Don Hopkins of a book by my friend and mentor, Ron Dellums. It is a moving account of his rise in politics, and the major contribution he made to Congress, and indeed to the world as follows:

DELLUMS' "LYING DOWN WITH THE LIONS"

Former Berkeley/Oakland Congressman Ronald Dellums has recently written a book, co-authored by his long time colleague, H. Lee Halterman, entitled "Lying Down with the Lions."

Since I was also a staffer of the Congressman, one would expect that I would have laudatory things to say about his book. I will not disappoint such expectations. My interest is to urge people who are interested in the struggle for social, political and economic justice in America to read the book and enjoy what it says about us, as much as what it says about him and for the movement he came to symbolize, and to the best of his abilities, to lead.

My thought is that for Bay Area residents who take pride in the Niners, the Sharks, the Raider, the Warriors, the Stanford Cardinals and the Cal Bears et al., it does not seem a reach to suggest that they take pride in a home grown warrior on the political front, like Ron Dellums.

Ron, after all, grew up in West Oakland. West Oakland, it might be recalled, is that picturesque corner of Oakland that Leslie Stahl of 60 Minutes recently defamed as a "pocket of poverty" within an otherwise prosperous Northern California. What Ms. Stahl apparently did not know, and what one can discern by reading "Lions," is that their exists serious progeny from West Oakland that has contributed monumentally to the success of this nation.

For the purpose of this note, however, I would focus on Ronald V. Dellums. As we speak, there is a federal building named after him. There is a train station named after his uncle and mentor, a hero of the civil rights movement, the distinguished C.L. Dellums. There are countless public improvement projects and programs in the area, like the Chabot Science Center, the Federal Building, the Military Base projects, that are extant and flourish because of his work and sacrifice.

More than all of this, however, what should be known by Bay Area residents is the tremendous contribution Dellums made to the politics of this area, this nation, and most significantly, the world.

Ron Dellums' politics, which were grounded on the notion of "coalition", gave meaning, structure and guidance, across race, gender and class lines, to a set of politics that first led to the significant inclusion of mi-

norities in elected positions in the Bay Area of Northern California. The same politics, grounded in the notion that all of the world's "Niggers" — the excluded and disenfranchised—working together, could "change the world."

This particular characterization of logic and integrity of a coalition of all the disenfranchised later became passé (Nigger could only be snickeringly referred to, as during the O.J. Simpson trial, as the "N" word, and what a crock, for a word so well worn) the fact is that the political activists of the Bay Area and other urban communities touched by the intractable logic of Dellums' "Nigger speech", was a critical ingredient in the development of the coalition, the struggle, that ended America's involvement in the war in Vietnam. It gave philosophical and emotional resonance to Lyndon Baines Johnson's call for a War on Poverty, and it laid the groundwork for a political movement that brought Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, Women, Handicapped people, Gays, etc., into the limelight of political recognition, respectability, and redress.

Dellums built upon the eloquence and commitment of the likes of John George and Bob Scheer to give the antiwar movement focus, legitimacy, credibility, multiethnic support and moral tonality. His passion for justice for the disenfranchised was responsible for the impact his presence made in the legislative agenda and the political culture of the United States Congress.

Upon his retirement from the Congress, members from both sides of the aisle, testified, that his efforts contributed significantly to the culmination of the cold war, the modification of military procurement policies that prolonged that war, and to a social agenda that promised a peace divided that would benefit the poor and less fortunate in American communities.

None of what Ron Dellums accomplished can be known without some effort. Books have been written about the Kennedys and Martin Luther King, about Whitney Young, Andrew Young, Jesse Jackson and other heroes of that struggle. Those of us, who believe in the importance of coalition politics, the politics that binds the interests of the disenfranchised American across ethnic, gender, age, and sex lines, could not be fulfilled by any chronicle of the era, without a book by and about Ron Dellums.

Dellums' book, which is a short but thoughtful recapitulation of the issues that first led him to Congress—the philosophical and political ideas that sustained his growth as a public person, and the impact these had on the political process, is therefore a "must" to read for anyone who seeks a handle on the flavor of what happened and why during the critical years of our national life when he served us as an activist, a local legislator, and a member of Congress.

I trust that those who lived through the tumultuous sixties, seventies, and eighties in the Bay Area, who lived through the saga of the Black Panther Party, the antiwar movement, the struggle for the liberation of South Africa, and the struggle to end the Cold War, will take time to read the Dellums tome.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 8, 2000

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, last week I traveled to Puerto Rico to show my support for the people of Puerto Rico and the peaceful demonstrators who are opposed to the resumption of Naval training on the island of Vieques.

As a result of my absence from this chamber during last week, I missed voting on the following recorded votes: rollcall vote Nos. 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, and rollcall vote number 143. Had I been present in this chamber when these votes were cast, I would have voted "yes" on each of these rollcall votes.

I also missed voting on rollcall vote Nos. 144 and 145 and had I been present, I would have voted "no" on each of these two votes.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS
ON DEATH OF JOHN CARDINAL
O'CONNOR, ARCHBISHOP OF NEW
YORK

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, I celebrate John Cardinal O'Connor.

It is my deepest hope that Cardinal O'Connor's wise, charitable, and dynamic legacy of leadership becomes a standard for all future New York City Cardinals.

Cardinal O'Connor had an extraordinary capacity to speak to New York's many diverse communities—to both comfort and inspire.

The Cardinal cast light on our City's most pressing problems, and then showed us what needed to be done, particularly for homelessness, the AIDS crisis, and condition of the poor.

In the past months, many people learned that Cardinal O'Connor often anonymously volunteered in AIDS clinics.

We may never know the other people and place Cardinal O'Connor selflessly aided. We can only assume that his actions were innumerable and always compassionate.

Cardinal O'Connor was a great leader and a friend of all leaders in our city. More than one mayor told me they often consulted with him on how to handle their work and to respond to the challenges of leading the City. He received almost every award his Church and City could bestow on him.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.